

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As mentioned above, the invention provides means allowing the sail to be rendered non-deformable in compression around the reel and parallel to its ~~hoist-side~~ luff.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to the exemplary embodiment depicted in figures 4a and 4b, the ~~deformability~~ resistance to deformation of the sail is obtained by producing a fabric which comprises fibers that are coarse enough and polymerized in such a way as to resist compression and local buckling. Such a fabric may be produced by incorporating between two films 17, 17' of fine fabric, for example films of ethylene glycol polyterephthalate, particularly of the type marketed under the trade name "Mylar", transverse and longitudinal fibers 18, 18' that are resistant to compression, the whole then being bonded. This then yields an anisotropic fabric resistant to compression and also improving the integrity of the sail.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to the other exemplary embodiment illustrated by figure 3, this non-deformability is obtained by stitching slats such as 16 onto the sail, parallel to its ~~hoist~~ side luff, the slats being able to be rolled onto the reel.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the exemplary embodiment illustrated by figure 5, use is made of a conventional cylindrical reel 19 and additional slats or additional fibers are provided in the central part of the sail that is to be rolled up, parallel to the ~~hoist-side~~ luff thereof, so as to form, as the sail is rolled up, said additional volume and obtain additional local rigidity. This then yields a solution which is equivalent to that of the biconical reel 14 of figure 2.--